## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

## I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 13, 28-34, 36-46, 55-59, 70-72, and 74 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-12, 15-27, 35, 47-54, 60-69, 73, 75, and 76 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 13, 28, 36-39, 42, 44, 55, 57, 70, and 71 are independent. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112.

## CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Remainder of this page intentionally left blank

17

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP Attorneys for Applicants

Thomas F. Presson

Reg. No. 41,442 (212) 588-0800